

# Tennessee Deaths 2000

May 2002

The Tennessee Department of Health

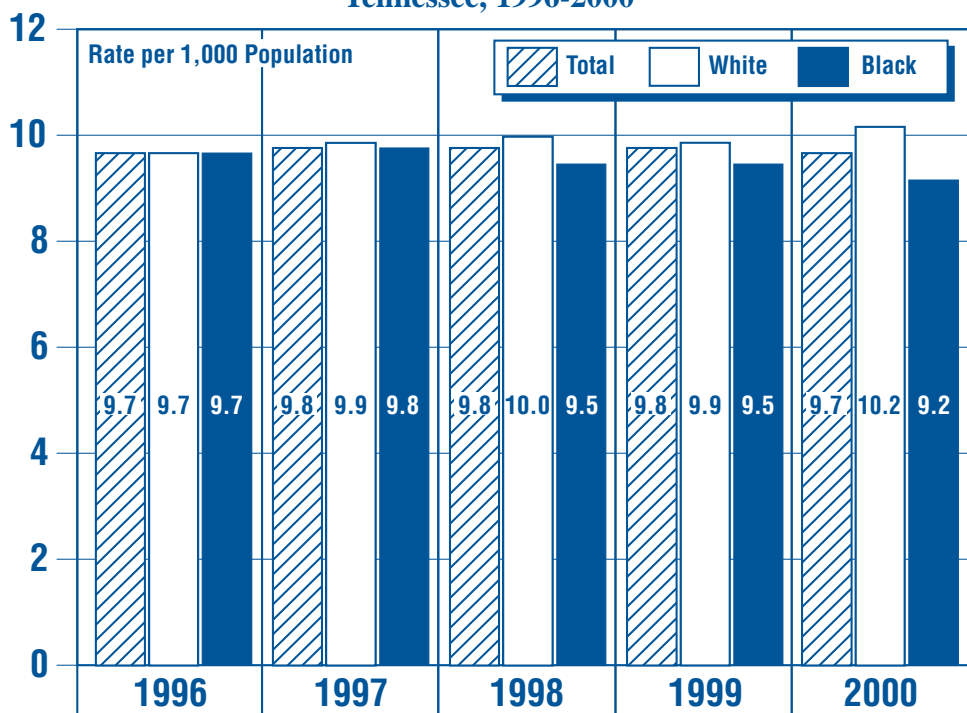
*Tennessee's death data provides information on 2000 final mortality data for state residents. Resident data includes events which occurred to residents of the state irrespective of where the events took place. Certificates filed with the Office of Vital Records supplied the data for this report.*

Over the past century, improvements in scientific technology and research have created a better quality of life. Tennesseans now have the potential for increased longevity of life and reductions in illnesses.

The overall death rate remained fairly steady from 1996 to 2000, as the total population increased 6.9 percent. The 2000 mortality rate for whites of 10.2 was the highest for the five-year period. This was a 5.2 percent increase over the rate of 9.7 in 1996. The rate for blacks decreased from 9.7 per 1,000 population to 9.2 from 1996 to 2000.

Age-specific death rates for 2000 show the total rates increasing over three times for the age group 45-64 to the group 65-74. The highest levels were for the population groups 85 years and older. Rates for blacks were higher than rates for whites for every age group. The black infant death rate of 18.1 was 2.7 times higher than the white rate of 6.6 per 1,000 births.

**Death Rates by Race, Resident Data  
Tennessee, 1996-2000**



Population estimates used to calculate rates were revised August 20, 2001.  
(See Note on last page)

**Number of Deaths by Age and Race, with Rates per 1,000  
Population, Resident Data, Tennessee, 2000**

Age Groups	Total	Rate	White	Rate	Black	Rate
Total	55,092	9.7	46,328	10.2	8,600	9.2
Under 1*	719	9.0	405	6.6	305	18.1
1-4 years	104	0.3	66	0.3	37	0.5
5-14 years	192	0.2	134	0.2	57	0.3
15-24 years	856	1.1	632	1.1	220	1.4
25-44 years	3,415	2.0	2,510	1.8	888	3.1
45-64 years	10,340	7.8	8,171	7.3	2,118	12.6
65-74 years	10,646	27.8	9,069	26.9	1,547	37.7
75-84 years	15,356	64.3	13,544	63.7	1,783	74.4
85+ years	13,462	165.2	11,796	165.6	1,645	172.7

\*Rate for deaths under age one are per 1,000 live births. All other age groups are per 1,000 population.  
Total includes deaths of other races and deaths with race not stated.

Tennessee's ten leading causes of death accounted for 43,870 or 79.6 percent of the total 55,092 deaths in 2000. Diseases of heart and malignant neoplasms combined accounted for 28,437 or 51.6 percent of the total deaths. The codes used for cause of death were from the *Tenth Revision International Classification of Diseases*.

*Notes: Age-adjustment is a technique that removes the effects that differences in age distributions have on mortality rates for two or more groups being compared. For 2000, the standard population used in the direct method calculations was revised to the 2000 United States estimated population, as recommended by the National Center for Health Statistics. These revised age-adjusted figures may result in rates that differ from previous years.*

### Leading Causes of Death (ICD-10 Codes) with Rates and Age-Adjusted Rates per 100,000 Population Resident Data, Tennessee, 2000

Cause	Number	Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate
Total Deaths	55,092	968.3	994.1
1. Diseases of heart (I00-I09, I11, I13, I20-I51)	16,128	283.5	292.8
2. Malignant neoplasms (C00-C97)	12,309	216.4	218.3
3. Cerebrovascular diseases (I60-I69)	4,257	74.8	78.4
4. Chronic lower respiratory diseases (J40-J47)	2,882	50.7	52.0
5. Accidents (V01-X59, Y85-Y86)	2,723	47.9	48.2
Motor vehicle accidents (V02-V04, V09.0, V09.2, V12-V14, V19.0-V19.2, V19.4-V19.6, V20-V79, V80.3-V80.5, V81.0-V81.1, V82.0-V82.1, V83-V86, V87.0-V87.8, V88.0-V88.8, V89.0-V89.2)	1,376	24.2	24.1
6. Influenza and pneumonia (J10-J18)	1,670	29.4	30.9
7. Diabetes mellitus (E10-E14)	1,588	27.9	28.4
8. Alzheimer's disease (G30)	1,021	17.9	19.2
9. Intentional self-harm (suicide) (X60-X84, Y87.0)	727	12.8	12.7
10. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (K70, K73-K74)	595	10.5	10.3

### Number of Infant and Neonatal Deaths by Race with Rates per 1,000 Live Births Resident Data, Tennessee, 2000

Infant Deaths	Number	Rate	Neonatal Deaths	Number	Rate
Total	719	9.0	Total	466	5.9
White	405	6.6	White	260	4.3
Black	305	18.1	Black	202	12.0

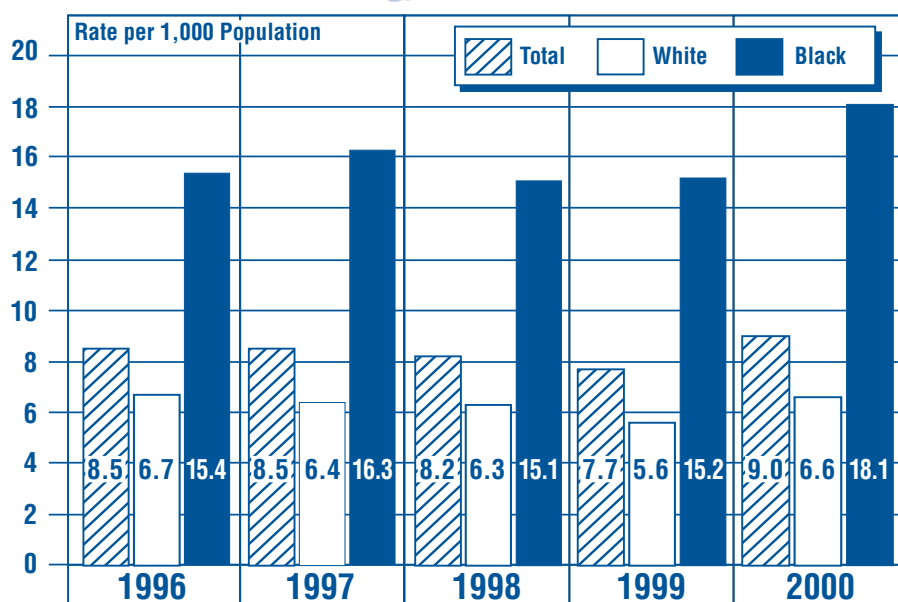
Infant Death - A death of a live-born infant under one year of age.  
Neonatal Death - A death of a live-born infant under 28 days of age.

Tennessee had 719 infant deaths in 2000. The total infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 9.0. The number of white infant deaths was 405 with a mortality rate of 6.6. The number of black infant deaths was 305, and the rate was 18.1 per 1,000 live births. The total number of neonatal deaths was 466 with a rate of 5.9. There were 260 white and 202 black neonatal deaths with corresponding rates of 4.3 and 12.0 per 1,000 live births.

### Infant Death Rates by Race, Resident Data Tennessee, 1996-2000

Tennessee's infant death rates remained fairly steady from 1996 through 1998. After a decrease in 1999 the rate increased to 9.0 in 2000. The 2000 white infant death rate was consistent with the white rates for 1996 and 1997, while the 2000 black rate of 18.1 was the highest for the five-year period.

Early prenatal care and educating mothers on the importance of proper nutrition and good health habits, and informative programs like the "Back to Sleep" campaign have been important factors in the ongoing effort to decrease infant deaths. While these deaths overall have declined since the early 1900's, infant death reduction will continue to be a high priority for health professionals.



*Tennessee's violent death data primarily focuses on assault (homicide) and intentional self-harm (suicide) deaths. Also provided is information on firearm deaths, which includes accidental deaths as well as homicides and suicides due to firearm use. In addition to the 2000 violent deaths, there were seven deaths from legal intervention.*

- During 2000, there were 470 assault deaths among residents of Tennessee. The corresponding death rate was 8.3 per 100,000 population.
- In 2000, black deaths accounted for 258 or 54.9 percent of the total assault deaths.
- Of the total 2000 assault deaths, 75.7 percent were males while 44.0 percent of the total were black males.
- The number of intentional self-harm deaths for 2000 was 727 with a rate of 12.8 per 100,000 population.
- The white population accounted for 671 or 92.3 percent of the total 2000 intentional self-harm deaths.
- Of the total 2000 intentional self-harm deaths, 80.1 percent were males while 74.1 percent of the total were white males.
- In 2000, intentional self-harm was the ninth leading cause of death in Tennessee.

The 2000 assault death rate for blacks was 27.7 per 100,000 population. This rate was 6.2 times the rate of 4.5 for

whites. The 2000 intentional self-harm rate for whites was 14.7. This rate was 2.5 times the rate of 5.8 for blacks.

### Number of Assault and Intentional Self-Harm Deaths by Race and Gender, with Rates per 100,000 Population Resident Data, Tennessee, 2000

	Assault		Intentional Self-harm	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Total	470	8.3	727	12.8
White	207	4.5	671	14.7
White Male	146	6.6	539	24.2
White Female	61	2.6	132	5.7
Black	258	27.7	54	5.8
Black Male	207	47.2	41	9.3
Black Female	51	10.3	13	2.6
Other Races	5	2.6	2	1.0
Other Male	3	2.9	2	1.9
Other Female	2	2.2	-	-

In 2000, there were 27 assault deaths and 7 intentional self-harm deaths among children under 15 years of age.

### Number of Assault and Intentional Self-Harm Deaths by Age with Rates per 100,000 Population, Resident Data, Tennessee, 2000

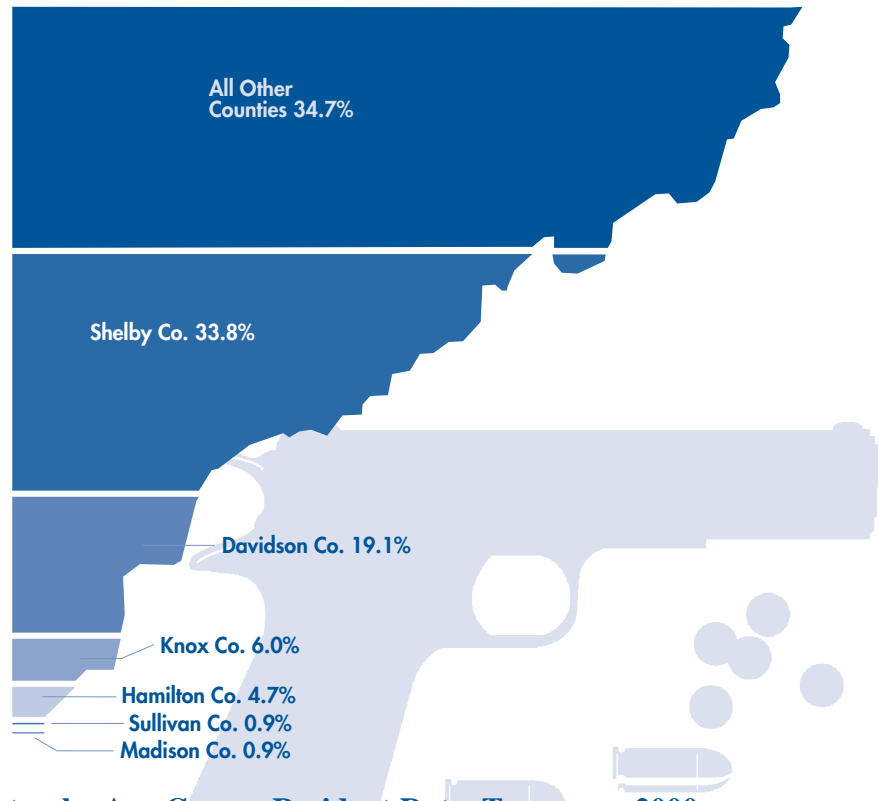
Age Groups	Assault		Intentional Self-harm	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Total	470	8.3	727	12.8
Under 1*	9	0.1	-	-
1-9 years	11	1.6	-	-
10-14 years	7	1.8	7	1.8
15-19 years	49	12.4	38	9.6
20-24 years	81	21.0	55	14.2
25-29 years	70	17.3	46	11.4
30-34 years	49	11.9	74	18.0
35-44 years	94	10.4	177	19.6
45-54 years	56	7.1	124	15.8
55-64 years	26	4.9	82	15.4
65-74 years	9	2.4	56	14.6
75-84 years	5	2.1	57	23.8
85+ years	4	4.9	11	13.5

\*Rate for deaths under one are per 1,000 births. All other age groups are per 100,000 population.

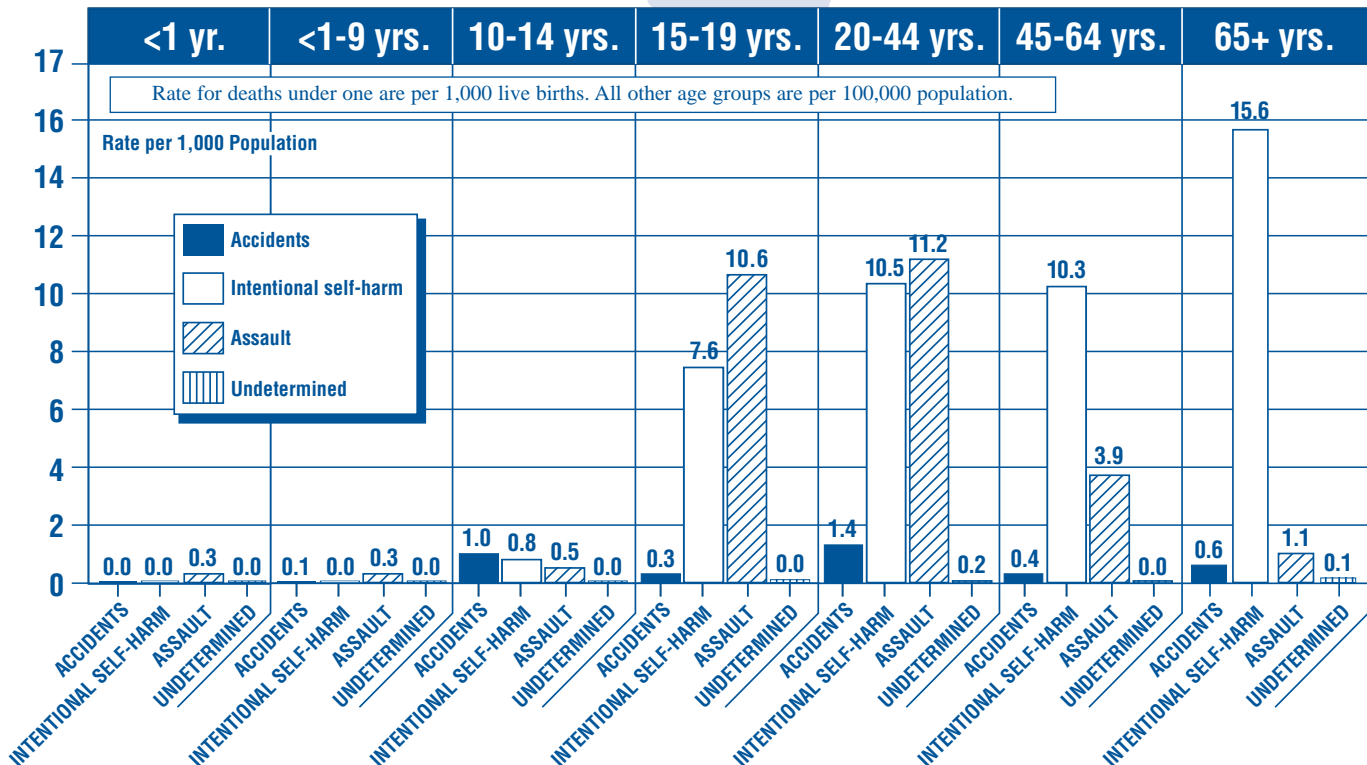
In 2000, Tennessee's assault mortality by county of residence reveals the highest numbers for residents of Shelby and Davidson Counties. These two counties accounted for 53.0 percent of the state's total number of assault deaths.

In 2000, five children under the age of ten years died from firearm injuries. Of these five deaths, one was accidental and four were assault deaths. Two of these assaults were to infants under one year of age. While accidental death is the leading cause of death for young children, violence toward children and youth is of increasing concern. For children ages 10-14, there were nine firearm deaths. Of these deaths, four were accidental, three were intentional self-harm, and two were assault deaths. The assault rate for firearm injury was highest for the 20-44 age group, while the intentional self-harm rate was highest for the 65+ years.

### Tennessee's Assault Deaths by Metropolitan and Rural Counties, Resident Data, 2000



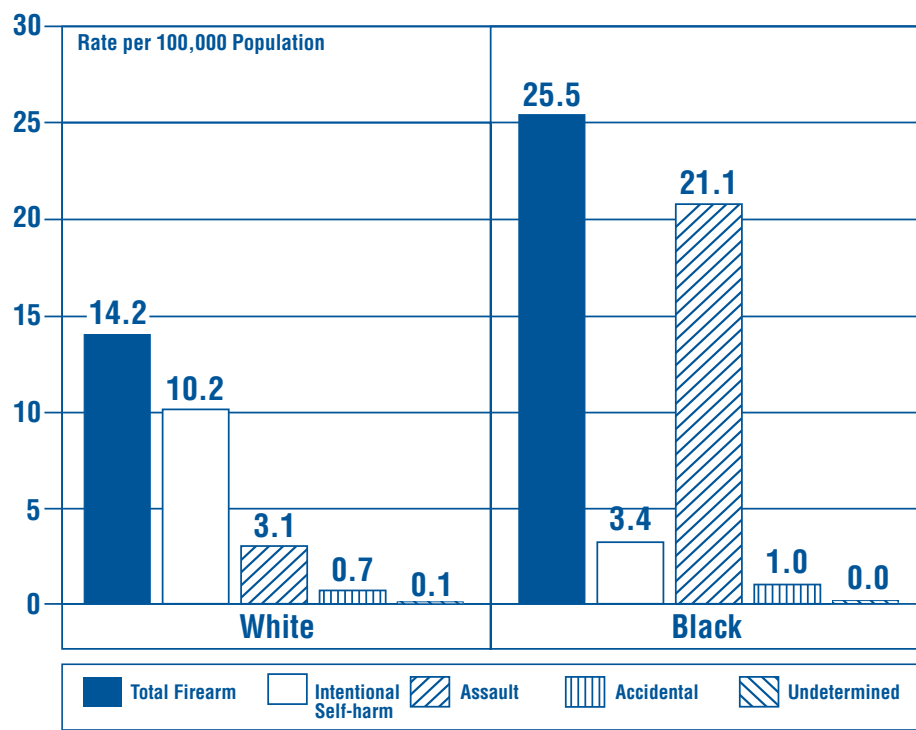
### Firearm Death Rates, by Age Group, Resident Data, Tennessee, 2000



Deaths attributed to firearm injury are classified according to ICD-10 codes as follows: accident codes W32-W34; intentional self-harm codes X72-X74; assault codes X93-X95, and undetermined whether accidentally or purposely inflicted, codes Y22-Y24.

Tennessee had 646 firearm deaths for white residents and 238 for black residents in 2000. The firearm death rate for the white population was 14.2 per 100,000 population. The rate for blacks of 25.5 was 1.8 times greater than the white rate. The intentional self-harm firearm mortality rate for whites was 3.0 times greater than the rate for blacks, while the assault firearm death rate for blacks was 6.8 times greater than the white rate. The accidental firearm death rate for blacks was 1.4 percent higher than the white rate. The rate for whites for undetermined cause was 0.1 while there were no deaths of undetermined cause for blacks.

**Firearm Death Rates, by Race  
Resident Data, Tennessee 2000**



**Number of Firearm Deaths by  
Race and Gender, with Rates per  
100,000 Population, Resident Data  
Tennessee, 2000**

	Number	Rate
Total	891	15.7
White	646	14.2
White Male	545	24.5
White Female	101	4.3
Black	238	25.5
Black Male	209	47.7
Black Female	29	5.9
Other Races	7	3.6
Other Male	5	4.9
Other Female	2	2.2

For 2000, firearm death rates by gender show that black males had the highest rate (47.7) per 100,000 population. The lowest firearm mortality rate of 2.2 was for other females.

Violent deaths have become an important health issue as it appears that violent behavior has grown to be the course of action for conflict, emotional distress, and criminal activity; but health programs alone are not sufficient to deal with this complicated problem. Implementing prevention programs involves the cooperative efforts of public health, mental health, criminal justice, social services, and professional education. Reducing these preventable deaths is imperative in the goal toward increased longevity of life.

More detailed county level mortality data may be obtained by contacting the Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics and Research or at our website.

**NOTE:** The population estimates for Tennessee used to calculate the rates in this report were based on figures prepared from the 2000 census on August 20, 2001 by Health Statistics and Research.

These revised population figures may result in rates that differ from those previously published.

2000  
Total Population  
5,689,283

2000  
White Population  
4,563,310

2000  
Black Population  
932,809

Please visit the **Health Information Tennessee (HIT)** pages at the **Health Data** site on the Tennessee Department of Health website:

<http://www.state.tn.us/health>

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